

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GY

SUBJECT: ALLEGED MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL SHAKE-UP

SUMMARY: FONOFF SOURCE ALLEGES DEPUTY PM REID UNLIKELY RETURN TO FULL DUTY AND THAT HE MAY BE REPLACED BY FONMIN WILLS, WITH RADICAL MINISTER SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY MOVING TO FONMIN. FONOFF MORALE LOW WITH THREATS OF RESIGNATION DUE TO GOVT POLITICAL INTERREFERENCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. HIGH LEVEL SOURCE AT FONOFF GAVE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO DCM NOV 20 TH, ALLEGING THAT MUCH OF IT CAME DIRECTLY TO HIM FROM FONMIN FRED WILLS:

A) DEPUTY PM ANDPNC GENERAL SECRETARYPTOLEMY REID SUFFERED A STROKE LAST WEEK, NOT A MERE DISORDER OF A FACIAL NERVE AS WAS ALLEGED. HE IS NOW PARTIALLY PARALYZED ON LEFT SIDE AND PROGNOSIS FOR HIS RETURN TO FULL DUTY IS NOT GOOD.

B) POWER GROUPS WITHIN PNC ARE JOCKEYING TO REPLACE REID. GROUPS HAVE COALESSED INTO ONE FAVORING COOPERATIVES MINISTER HAMILTON GREEN AS NEXT DEPUTY PM AND ANOTHER PUSHING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DESMOND HOYTE AS MOST LIKELY CANDIDATE TO BLOCK GREEN. BURNHAM, WHO DEMOTED GREEN IN CABINET RESHUFFLE LAST YEAR, IS ADAMANTLY DETERMINED TO BLOCK GREEN'S SUCCESSION TO REID'S JOBS, BUT ALSO NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HOYTE. GREEN,
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REALIZING THAT HE CANNOT PRESENTLY BUCK BURNHAM'S OPPOSITIN, HAS

OFFERED TO BACK FRED WILLS AS DEPUTY PM ON CONDITION THAT WILLS

CONVINCE BURNHAM TO APPOINT GREEN'S WIFE, INFORMATION AND CULTURE
MINISTER SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, TO SUCCEED WILLS AS FONMIN. SOURCE
THINKS THIS HAS GOOD CHANCE OF TRANSPIRING WITHIN NEXT MONTH UNLESS
REID SHOWS UNEXPECTEDLY RAPID RECOVERY. SOURCE WAS NOT
CERTAIN WHETHER WILLS HAS DISCUSSED SCENARIO WITH BURNHAM.
WILLS, BY THIS ACCOUNT, WOULD NOT NECESSARILY ALSO RECEIVE REID'S
TITLE AS PNC GENERAL SECRETARY. THAT RPT THAT JOB WOULD POSSIBLY
GO TO LABOR MINISTER WINSLOW CARRINGTON.

2. SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL FONO OFFICERS INCLUDING PERM SEC RUDY
COLLINS AND SUBSTANTIVE CHIEF LLOYD SEARWAR WERE SAID BY SOURCE
TO BE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN PERSONNEL
ASSIGNMENTS AND POLITICAL MANDATE THAT GUYANA AUTOMATICALLY BACK
RADICAL THIRD WORLD INTERNATIONAL POSITIONS WITHOUT ANALYSIS
OF SUBSTANCE OF ISSUES. COLLINS AND SEVERAL OTHERS ARE PRESENTLY
CONSIDERING RESIGNATION.

ILLUSTRATIVE OF INTERFERENCE ON ASSIGNMENTS, ACCORDING TO SOURCE,
IS ALLEGED PLAN TO PURGE GOVT OF "INEFFECTUAL" PERMANENT SECRETARIES
FRANK NOEL (TRADE), C.J. BARKER (ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES)
AND C. MC ALISTER ASHLEY (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PNC
SECRETARIAT) BY ASSIGNING THEM AS COUNSELLORS AT GOG OVERSEAS
MISSIONS.

3. COMMENT: REID IS PRESENTLY HOSPITALIZED WITH LEFT SIDE OF FACE
PARTIALLY PARALYZED. RUMOR OF STROKE HAS BEEN DENIED TO US BY SEVERAL
INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING PHYSICIANPRACTICING AT HOSPITAL WHERE HE
IS CONFINED WHO DIAGNOSED HIS PROBLEM AS A NERVE CONSTRICTION
ASSOCIATED WITH LEPTOSPIROSIS, AND BY FONMIN WILLS, WHO TOLD ME
IT WAS SOMETHING CALLED QUOTE SEVENTH NERVE UNQUOTE, TEAM OF
PHYSICIANS TREATING HIM HAVE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON HIS CONDITION.
WE BELIEVE THAT FONO OFFICE SOURCE, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED ACCURATE
INFORMATION, WAS CORRECTLY REPORTING VIEWS OF DEMORALIZED FONO OFFICE
CAREER OFFICIALS AND WAS PROBABLY CORRECTLY REPORTING ACCOUNT
OF HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL MANEUVERING AS HE RECEIVED IT PRIMARILY
FROM FRED WILLS. SINCE WILLS IS POLITICAL MACHIAVELLIAN SCHEMER
WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR TRUTH, AND IN FACT, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO
DELIVERED APPARENTLY SINCERE LECTURE TO DCM ON THE FINE ART OF
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CONSTRUCTIVE LYING, WE RESERVE JUDGMENT ON ACCURACY OF REPORT OF
TOP LEVEL MANEUVERING FOR THE MOMENT. THE EXISTENCE OF PRO AND
ANTI-GREEN FACTIONS AND BURNHAM'S OPPOSITION TO GREEN ACCORD
WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERNAL SITUATION OF THE PNC, HOWEVER.
THOUGH CARRINGTON SEEMS A WEAK REED AS POTENTIAL PNC BOSS, HE IS
LOYAL TO BURNHAM, WOULD PROBABLY BE REGARDED BY ANY POWER BROKER
AS EASY TO MANIPULATE.

WILL'S ABSENCE IN RECENT YEARS FROM PARTY MANEUVERING MAKES HIM AN UNDERSTANDABLY WEAK CANDIDATE FOR THE PARTY POST. IF WILLS SHOULD SUCCEED TO THE DEPUT PM SLOT, HE WOULD CERTAINLY BE MORE FAVORABLE TO U.S. INTERESTS THAN WOULD REID, GREEN AND PROBABLY HOYTE, ALL OF WHOM ARE CLEARLY IN RADICAL WING OF PNC. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, PERHAPS MOST RADICAL AND ANTI-U.S. OF PRESENT CABINET MEMBERS, WOULD BE OUR LAST CHOICE FOR FONMIN
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